(c) The investigation by the State Police into the bomb blasts at Dimapur are inconclusive. However, ULFA has claimed responsibility for some of the incidents in Assam.

(d) Government's policy is to hold dialogue, develop, do social justice, have right kind of laws and modernise & strengthen the Police/Security Forces, to tackle the activities of the militants with the help of forces to protect properties, limbs and lives of innocent persons in society.

Rape Cases in Delhi

1347. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of rape cases reported in the capital during the last year and so far during the current year;

(b) in how many cases the conviction of the accused had taken place; and

(c) whether Government propose to enhance the punishment of this heinous crime with a view to check their abnormal increase and if so, the details thereof and if not, what other steps Government propose to check the occurrence of the those cases and ensure the conviction of the accused involved in those cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) and (b) The number of rape cases reported in Delhi during the year 2003 and 2004 (upto 15th November) was 490 and 491 respectively. The number of cases, including the cases reported during previous years, in which the accused persons were convicted was 114 in 2003 and 98 in 2004 (upto 30-11-04).

(c) The Indian Penal Code, 1860, as amended from time to time, already provides for stringent punishment for offences of rape. The punishments prescribed are for a term which shall not be less than seven years but which may be for life or for a term, which may extend to ten years and shall also be liable to fine. The Law Commission which reviewed the Rape Laws in its 172nd Report did not recommend death penalty for the offence of rape. The Malimath Committee on Reforms of Criminal Justice System in its report observed that the Committee was not in favour of prescribing death penalty for the offence of rape.

The steps taken to prevent rape cases and to ensure conviction of accused persons include (a) establishment of a Crime Against Women Cell; (b) setting up of Rape Crises Intervention Centres in all the nine Police Districts; (c) association of Women Police Officers in investigation of rape cases; (d) setting up of three Special Courts headed by women judges; (e) networking with Non-Governmental organisations; (f) deployment of staff in plain clothes; (g) starting of dedicated telephone helplines; and (h) constitution of 'Women Mobile Team' to attend to distress calls from women on round-the-clock basis.

Separate Ministries/Deptts. in States for Calamity Management

1348. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the States where separate Ministries/Departments have been created for calamity management;

(b) the details of amount provided to these Ministries/Departments during the last two years;

(c) whether any norm has been formulated to identify the works to be done under calamity management; and

(d) if so, the details of the steps taken to assure the compliance of these norms?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) The Government of Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Bihar, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Punjab, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu and the Andaman & Nicobar Administration have re-designated their existing Relief and Rehabilitation/Revenue Departments so as to include Disaster Management in the names of these departments. The Government of Nagaland have re-designated the Relief and Rehabilitation branch in their Home Department as the Relief, Rehabilitation and Disaster Management Branch. The Government of Uttranchal have created a Department of Disaster Management.

(b) The Central Government have not provided any financial support for the creation/re-designation of these departments.